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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re application of

Joerg MOISEL

Application No.: 10/811,627

Filed: March 29, 2004

For: DEVICE FOR IMPROVING VIEW IN A VEHICLE

Attorney Docket No.: 3926.077

Customer No.: 000041288

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37.C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the following documents for the above-identified application. Copies of the documents set forth below and listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and copy of an Office Action which issued in the corresponding German patent application are provided herewith.

1. German Patent Application No. 41 37 551 A1
2. German Patent Application No. 41 07 850 A1
3. German Patent Application No. 43 35 244 A1

In the German Office Action Documents 1 and 3 were cited against claims 1 and 2 of the priority application (corresponding to present claims 9 and 10 of the U.S. application). Claims 3 and 9 of the German priority application were considered novel and inventive. Accordingly, favorable consideration of the subject matter of claims 11-17 is respectfully requested.

The relevancy of the non-English documents is discussed below.

Document 1

German Patent Application No. 41 37 551 A1 entitled "View improving appts., partic. for vehicle - converts impinging light into output signals in reception optic depending on distance" published on March 11, 1993.

As discussed in the present specification, Document 1 discloses an emission source for illuminating the vehicle environment with infrared radiation, an infrared sensitive camera for detecting at least a portion of the illuminated vehicle environment and a display for depicting the image information detected by the camera. In addition, the infrared sensitive camera is provided with an IR-filter, which is transparent to the infrared radiation of the radiation source, while being non-transparent for the remainder of the infrared emission spectrum as well as visible light due to its high blocking effect. Thereby it is accomplished that daylight as well as normal light from headlights of oncoming vehicles is completely blocked or very strongly attenuated and the interference with or disruption

of the detected image information due to this extraneous light is substantially precluded.

One IR-filter of this type is available for example from the company LINOS PHOTONICS as product RG 780. It exhibits in the infrared radiation range, that is, at a wavelength of greater than 780 nm, a degree of transmission of approximately 98%, in comparison to which in the range of the visible light it exhibits a typical degree of transmission of approximately 10^{-5} . From DE 41 37 551 A1 it is known to use an IR-filter variable in the degree of transmission in the infrared radiation range over its surface, in comparison to which the visible light is completely attenuated.

Applicant is not aware of any English language document equivalent to Document 1, other than an English language abstract:

The appts. has an illuminative optic, radiating a light beam widened in one plane, and a narrow focussed beam orthogonal to the first one. It scans a preset spatial angle by swivelling towards the narrow focussed beam. A reception optic is offset from the above plane w.r.t. the illuminative optic. The reception optic receives light in separate image plane lines from different distance regions of the spatial angle irradiated by the illumination optic and converts it into electric and/or visible optical output signals. The conversion of the impinging light in the reception optic output signals is such the different conversion factors are used according to distance regions.

USE/ADVANTAGE - For car driver's vision improvement, with improved image reception from field of vision.

Document 2

German Patent Application No. 41 07 850 A1 entitled "Night vision aid for automobile" published on June 17, 1992.

As disclosed in the present specification, Document 2 discloses an emission source for illuminating the vehicle environment with infrared radiation, an infrared sensitive camera for detecting at least a portion of the illuminated vehicle environment and a display for depicting the image information detected by the camera. In addition, the infrared sensitive camera is provided with an IR-filter, which is transparent to the infrared radiation of the radiation source, while being non-transparent for the remainder of the infrared emission spectrum as well as visible light due to its high blocking effect. Thereby it is accomplished that daylight as well as normal light from headlights of oncoming vehicles is completely blocked or very strongly attenuated and the interference with or disruption of the detected image information due to this extraneous light is substantially precluded.

Applicant is not aware of any English language document equivalent to Document 2, other than an English language abstract:

The night vision aid uses an optical illumination device (BO) providing an IR beam (LB) with a defined polarisation and given beam angle, the reflected component of the emitted light

having an orthogonal polarisation and received via an optical reception device (EO), supplying image information for a visual display. Pref. the illumination device (BO) provides a fan shaped beam (LB) with a narrow width in the perpendicular plane, with pivoting of the beam relative to the latter.

Document 3

German Patent Application No. 43 35 244 A1 entitled "Device for improving driver visibility in automobiles" published on June 22, 1995.

Applicant is not aware of any English language document equivalent to Document 3, other than an English language abstract:

A device for improving the visibility for cars has an illumination device comprising a linearly polarised source of light using a semiconducting laser and a lens to produce a light beam. The lens is a collector lens with a large surface area and has a focal length approximately equal to the distance of the source from it. There are also a number of tightly joined micro-lenses of equal focal lengths, but small compared with that of the collector lens, arranged to form a flat element. For the polarisation of the light, separate cylinder lens structures are used on opposite sides of a common lens. The collector lens has a Fresnel structure. The micro-lenses are scattering lenses.

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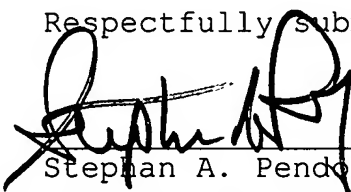
ATTY DOCK: 3926.077

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after three months from the application's filing date but before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, therefore no Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedated or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: **July 21, 2004**

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SERIAL NO.: 10/811,627
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

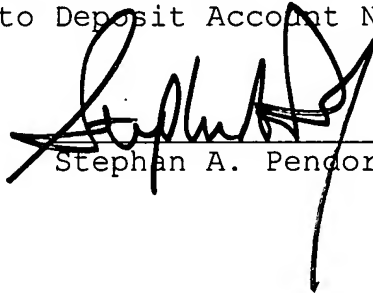
ATTY DOCK: 3926.077



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Form PTO-1449, including four (4) documents, for U.S. Application No. 10/811,627 filed March 29, 2004, were deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **July 21, 2004**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.



Stephan A. Pendorf

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as man sheets as necessary)

Complete If Known

Application Number	10/811,627
Filing Date	03/29/2004
First Named Inventor	Joerg MOISEL
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket No.	3926.077

Sheet

of

Attorney Docket No.

3926.077

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		DE 41 37 551 A1	03/11/1993	Edgar Weidel		N
		DE 41 07 850 A1	06/17/1992	Edgar Weidel et al.		N
		DE 43 35 244 A1	06/22/1995	Edgar Weidel		N

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.